



RSL
NSW

Forestville sub-Branch



NEWSLETTER

Serving veterans and their families in the Forest Area

MARCH 2026

Contact editor via email: newsletter@forestvillersl.org.au or via post: 22 Melwood Ave, Forestville, NSW 2087

President's Report

Our AGM 2026 will be held on Wednesday 1st April at 7.30pm in the Forest Room. This is an election year, and we encourage all members to attend. Committee members who are standing are making a substantial commitment to serve our sub-Branch and members over the next three years until 2029. Full details are included in this newsletter. Nominations closed on 23rd February.

We thank and congratulate the members of our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary who in 2025 raised \$12690. These funds are included in our sub-Branch donations to the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund (VSF) to support veterans and their families. In December, through the VSF, we donated \$10,000 to the Northern Beaches Veteran Wellbeing Centre managed by our sister charity RSL LifeCare, \$15,000 to the Saltwater Veterans Sailing Project, and \$5,000 to Australian Catholic University to support veterans with their tertiary education. Thanks again, RSL Auxiliary members, for an outstanding effort in 2025.

Our first Exercise Physiology Class on 26th January was with a new practitioner, Claudia with Chair Pilates exercises, who was very much appreciated by the twelve who attended. As part of our sub-Branch support of our members under the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation program, we hold these exercise physiology classes for our members and families. It is a twice-monthly class held in the Forestville RSL Club's Flight Deck Room funded by our sub-Branch, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Our next class is at 2.30pm on Thursday 12th March, then at 2.30pm on Thursday 26th March. These classes are open to all members and their families. However, as there are maximum numbers allowed in each class, you MUST register by calling our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary at the office during office hours on 9451 1221, or email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au.

Members will have the opportunity to join Acting RSL NSW President Vince Williams CSC and the ANZAC House team for an open discussion about the future direction of the League in NSW, when the 2026 Listening Tour travels around the state from March to May. RSL NSW will host a series of face-to-face forums where members will be invited to share experiences, raise local challenges, and help shape the development of the next RSL NSW Strategic Plan, which will guide the organisation beyond 2026 for at least three years. The Listening Tour is a chance to hear directly from members. As a member-based charity, it's imperative the next Strategic Plan reflects the lived experience of how they provide care, camaraderie and charitable support for veterans and their families in cities and towns across New South Wales. All members will be directly invited to attend their local session. The Listening Tour is a critical step in the development of the next Strategic Plan, which will ensure that RSL NSW can continue to deliver on its charitable objectives for the Defence and veteran community in NSW for generations to come. You can register to attend a session here: <https://forms.monday.com/forms/832d29f859c3a6e4379acb3c389a7c55?r=use1>.

We are looking forward to our Bill Hardman Presentation at our next meeting on Wednesday 4th March at 7.30pm in the Forest Room at Forestville RSL Club. Our presenter, Peter Scope, an Over 80s Driving Instructor, will share his knowledge with us. Peter has previously made a presentation to our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary members, with great success. Please join us for what will be an informative and memorable evening.

For your diaries, this is a gentle reminder to check our Dates to Remember 2026 in each newsletter.

Please enjoy yourselves as we move into our (hopefully) milder Sydney autumn weather. Please call us if you are in need.

Best Regards,
Bob Lunnon.

What's On

Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 4th March
7.30pm

AGM & Elections
Wednesday 1st April
7.30pm



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Tea with Auxiliary
- RSL NSW
Listening Tour

The Price of Liberty is Eternal Vigilance

Membership: membership totals: 333 (plus 6 Honorary members)

Sadly, we have lost the following members:

O'NEILL, Lee Francis ARMY
COOK, Brian Clarence ARMY

We welcome new members: NIL

Transfer out: Morris, Lindsay Bruce—to War Vets RSL sub-Branch

Our Cenotaph and Memorial Gardens

MEMORIAL PAVERS

Prepaid Pavers:

Members are reminded that you can order your own paver at any time if you wish.

Please note: orders for Anzac Day pavers close on Friday 13th March.

There is now no cost for pavers for sub-Branch service members.

***** IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION *****

It is your responsibility to ensure your NOK contact details are correct and up to date. We therefore ask that you constantly ensure our Membership Officer is always aware of both your primary NOK contact details (eg your partner), as well as your secondary NOK contact details (eg a family member such as a son or daughter), are always correct.

All changes should be advised to our Membership Officer, Peter McAskill via phone 0409 122 025 or 9451 1221 or email : membership@forestvillersl.org.au including if you wish to rescind your membership for any reason.

EXERCISE PHYSIOLOGY CLASSES

As part of our sub-Branch support of our members under the RSL NSW Sport & Recreation program, we have introduced exercise physiology classes for our members and families. It is a twice-monthly class held in the Forestville RSL Club's Flight Deck Room funded by our sub-Branch, on the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Our next class is at 2.30pm on Thursday 12th March, and then on Thursday 26th March at 2.30pm.

These classes are open to members and their families, however you **MUST register** by calling our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary at the office during office hours on 9451 1221, or email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au.

Forestville sub-Branch

WALKING GROUPS

Our next Walking Group will be on Wednesday 18th March from Forestville RSL Club, followed by morning tea/coffee hosted by the sub-Branch. All sub-Branch members and partners, and dogs on a leash, are encouraged to join us for a gentle walk, as part of RSL NSW Sport and Recreation activities. We look forward to seeing you, in support of our individual wellbeing, health and camaraderie. Please note that you **MUST register** by calling our sub-Branch Assistant Secretary at the office in office hours on 9451 1221, or email: asstsecretary@forestvillersl.org.au.

AS PART OF THE RSL NSW STRATEGIC PLAN 2021/2026 RSL NSW SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES FOR SUB-BRANCH MEMBERS

RSL NSW LISTENING TOUR

MARCH - MAY 2026

INVITATION TO REGISTER TO ATTEND

Members will have the opportunity to join Acting RSL NSW President Vince Williams CSC and the ANZAC House team for an open discussion about the future direction of the League in NSW, when the 2026 Listening Tour travels around the state from March to May. RSL NSW will host a series of face-to-face forums where members will be invited to share experiences, raise local challenges, and help shape the development of the next RSL NSW Strategic Plan, which will guide the organisation beyond 2026 for at least three years. The Listening Tour is a chance to hear directly from members.

As a member-based charity, it's imperative the next Strategic Plan reflects the lived experience of how care, camaraderie and charitable support is provided for veterans and their families in cities and towns across New South Wales. All members will be directly invited to attend their local session. The Listening Tour is a critical step in the development of the next Strategic Plan, which will ensure that RSL NSW can continue to deliver on its charitable objectives for the Defence and veteran community in NSW for generations to come.

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Forestville RSL Auxiliary

MEAT RAFFLE

FORESTVILLE RSL CLUB

The last Meat Raffle at Forestville RSL Club was on Friday 13th February from 5pm and was very successful. We encourage you to bring friends and family to have dinner in the Club when each of our Meat Raffles is conducted. Meat Raffle tickets are \$5 for 50 chances, and multiples thereof. EFTPOS is available. Lots of sub-Branch members have been winners.

NOTE: the next RSL Auxiliary Meat Raffle at the Club for 2026 will be on Friday 15th May from 5.30pm. Our RSL Auxiliary members will attend our General Meeting on Wednesday 6th May for Meat Raffle ticket pre-sales.

All proceeds from the Meat Raffle are donated directly by our sub-Branch to the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund, supporting veterans and their families in need, as part of our charitable purpose.

RSL AUXILIARY

Our first meeting for 2026 was held on 9th February. It was indeed good to see our members all fresh faced and smiling after a couple of months break. Barbara Lunnon presented an overview of our past year and future activities for 2026.

Our next meeting is on Monday 2nd March. It is during the week of International Women's Day (IWD) and, in that regard, we will enjoy a special luncheon with Guest Speaker Julia Williams, wife of Acting President RSL NSW, Vince Williams CSC.

You MUST book for this date, for catering purposes, no later than Wednesday 25th February. Contact Barbara Norton: mobile 0414 415 332, or email: barian@optusnet.com.au.

If you would like to be a member of our RSL Auxiliary to help with fundraising for Veterans and their Families in need, please call Barbara Norton, details above.

Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary

VISIT TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE

2nd February 2026

Along with other RSL Auxiliaries from NSW, eleven members of our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary were invited to Afternoon Tea with the Governor of NSW, Her Excellency the Honourable Margaret Beazley AC KC, the 39th Governor of NSW. Also in attendance were RSL NSW Acting President Vince Williams CSC and his wife Jules, RSL NSW Board Chair Louise Sullivan, and members of the RSL NSW Anzac House leadership team including Trina Constable who is A/CEO of RSL NSW. The Patron of RSL NSW Auxiliaries, Dennis Wilson, husband of the Governor, addressed the gathering of around 100 Auxiliary members thanking them for their fundraising efforts to support the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund and the tireless work our RSL Auxiliary members do year round to support veterans and their families in our community.



Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary

QUILT PRESENTATION TO 305 SQUADRON AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE CADETS (AAFC)

Thursday 26th February 2026

Our sub-Branch will make a Thank You quilt presentation to 305 Squadron Australian Air Force Cadets on their parade night at the Dee Why depot on 26th February at 6.15pm. Our sub-Branch will be represented by President Bob Lunnon and Ceremonial Officer John Balfour OAM JP. Our Forestville RSL sub-Branch Auxiliary will be represented by Co-Coordinator Barbara Lunnon and member Diana Dagg. Diana had spent many, many hours making the quilt and her wish was that it be donated to the AAF Cadets. We thanked Diana at our General Meeting on Wednesday 4th December 2026 for her wonderful work and caring. Great work, thanks again, Di!



SALTWATER VETERANS SAILING PROJECT ANNUAL ANZAC COMMEMORATIVE SERVICE From 9am Saturday 11th April 2026

Sandy Howard, our Reaching Out Coordinator, has advised that Saltwater Veterans will hold their Anzac Service at Manly Sailing Club on the East Esplanade, Manly, NSW 2095. Activities will also include social sailing for all skill levels, and a community BBQ, on Saturday 11th April from 9am for 9.30am. Suggested attire is shirt/board shorts, suit coat with medals, and a hat. Sandy, as sub-Branch Vice President, will attend representing our sub-Branch, and members are welcome to attend. Please speak with Sandy for further details. We included in our February newsletter a Thank You letter from Saltwater Veterans for our bi-annual donations through the RSL NSW Veteran Support Fund.

FORESTVILLE RSL SUB-BRANCH AGM 2026

Wednesday 1st April, 2026 at 7.30pm

COMMITTEE NOMINATIONS—2026 / 2029

- 2nd February 2026: Nomination forms were available from Office
- 23rd February 2026: Nominations closed
- March 2026 Newsletter: includes list of nominations received
- April 2026 Newsletter: to include list of elected Committee
- AGM 2026: Wednesday 1st April, 2026 - Ballots as necessary
- AGM 2026 Agenda posted on the sub-Branch website by 12th March 2026

Committee positions and nominations: as at 23 February

President: **Bob Lunnon**
Vice President: **Nick de Bont**
Honorary Secretary: **Sandy Howard**
Honorary Treasurer: **Sandy Howard**
Honorary Asst. Treasurer:
Ceremonial/AMC/RDEG Officer: **John Balfour OAM JP**
Membership Officer: **Peter McAskill JP**
Merchant Navy Coordinator: **Merrill Barker**
Research Officer: **Vince Williams CSC**
Committee Members:
Robin Tapp, Bruce O'Hagan, Frank Peterson

FOR YOUR 2026 DIARIES

Wednesday 4th March 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 1st April 2026	7.30pm sub-Branch AGM
Sunday 19th April 2026	2.40pm Anzac Sunday March & Service
Saturday 25th April 2026	5.30am Anzac Day Dawn Service
Wednesday 6th May 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 3rd June 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 1st July 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 5th August 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 9th August 2026	11.30am for 12noon Commemoration Luncheon
Wednesday 2nd September 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Wednesday 7th October 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Wednesday 4th November 2026	7.30pm Bill Hardman Presentation
Sunday 8th November 2026	10.30am Remembrance Sunday Service
Wednesday 2nd December 2026	7.30pm General Meeting
Sunday 6th December 2026	11.30am for 12noon Christmas Luncheon
Thursday 17th December 2026	12.01pm sub-Branch office closed - Christmas Break

Office re-opens Monday 18th January 2027

MARCH SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

March is noteworthy for the following significant dates:

- 1st March 1901 – Australian Army Birthday
- 1st March 1991 – Second Maritime Interception Force (MIF11), Persian Gulf
- 2nd March 1996 – UNAMIR 11 Operation TAMAR, Rwanda
- 9th March 1941 – Movement of Sixth Division to Greece discussed
- 11th March 1951 – Australians take Chusan, Korea
- 13th March 1956 – 1RAR's last ceremonial parade in Korea
- 14th March 1951 – UN Forces re-occupied Seoul
- 18th March 1941 – 16 Bde arrives in Greece
- 19th March 1941 – Fight for Giarabub began
- 20th March 1916 – First ANZAC Corp begins landing in France
- 23rd March 1941 – Big RAF raid on Berlin
- 24th March 1901 – Australians capture Boer convoy and guns at Veldfontein
- 24th March 1941 – Rommel re-occupied El Aghella on Tripolitania/Cyrenaica border
- 29th March 1941 – HMAS PERTH, VENDETTA and STUART in the Battle for Matapan, Greece
- 30th March 1941 – Axis counter-attack began in North Africa
- 31st March 1921 – Royal Australian Air Force Birthday

*"And the world is a little poorer, for a soldier died today"
...Lest We Forget...*



sub-Branch Office

Office - Phone (02) 9451 1221
Hours:
Monday 0900 - 1200 / 1245 - 1400
Thursday: 0900 - 1200

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Funerals Officer: Vacant
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Rev. Sanghyeon (Daniel) Nam
Phone: 0425 477 003

Travel Officer: Bob Connors OAM
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Mobile: 0433 934 705

RSL Auxiliary Coordinator:
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Mobile: 0414 415 332

Useful Links

Forestville RSL sub-Branch website:

<http://www.forestvillersl.org.au>

Forestville RSL sub-Branch Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/ForestvilleRSLSubBranch/>

Forestville RSL sub-Branch Instagram page:

<forestvillerssubbranch>

The Forestville Club website:

<http://www.forestvillersl.com.au>

RSL NSW website:

<http://www.rslnsw.org.au>

The Veterans Centre Australia:

<http://www.veteranscentre.org.au>

The Australian War Memorial website:

<http://www.awm.gov.au>

RSL NSW Mailing List Contact Details:

<http://www.rslnsw.org.au/update-member-details>

Sub-Branch Resources and Presentations:

<http://www.forestvillersl.org.au/resources>

RSL Lifecare At Home

<https://rsllifecareathome.org.au/>

Vet Affairs News

<https://dva.gov.au/vetaffairs>

DVA Australian Defence Veterans' Covenant

www.dva.gov.au/mysevice

Australian Death Notification Service

<https://deathnotification.gov.au/>

Scamwatch

www.scamwatch.gov.au

Military History Society of NSW

www.militaryhistorynsw.com.au